



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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BUREAU OF FISHERIES HEAD TO CHAIR WORLD MEETING ON SARDINE BIOLOGY

Donald L. McKernan, Director of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, has been named chairman of the World Scientific Meeting on the Biology of Sardines and Related Species in Rome, Italy, September 14-21, the Department of the Interior announced today.

The meeting is being held under the sponsorship of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Mr. McKernan was the choice of the consultive committee which is helping the Biology Branch, Fisheries Division, of the United Nations set up the conference. Mario Ruivo of Portugal is vice chairman.

Throughout the world the populations of sardines, sardinops and sardinella are subject to massive fluctuations which have mystified scientists and made consistent harvest and market planning impossible. The purpose of the world meeting is to consider methods of determining the reasons for these violent population fluctuations and to eventually create a system of predicting supply in time to give the industry a chance to adjust itself to large or small harvests. The United States catch of true sardines was over 200 million pounds in 1958.

Some of the things which the meeting hopes to document include: the extent to which the sardine resources are being harvested; the extent to which this exploitation is hampered by these fluctuations, through lack of knowledge of the resources and through the lack of biological information about the species. Other things which will be considered will be the value and means of documenting information about these species already at hand, methods for exchanging information and teaching services, and the type of meetings to be held in the future to further the program.

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